

Milton, Water Co., N. Y.,

24 March, 1857.

Dear Garrison:

9 I came here on Saturday, to attend an Anti-Slavery Convention with Susan Anthony and Aaron Powell. The Convention closed on Sunday, and yesterday Susan & Aaron went to Poughkeepsie to prepare the way for the meeting there. While waiting for the cars, I will improve the time to write you a few words about the approaching Anniversary of the American Society. In a letter to Mr. May, a few days since, I expressed my views very frankly on some points; and now, after a conversation with Susan Anthony (in whose judgment in all such matters I have much confidence), I wish to say that I unite very earnestly with her in the opinion, that, in the present condition of our treasury, we

~~we~~ shall make a great mistake if we do not impose an entrance fee. Ten cents, to be paid at the door, at each session, beginning with the Anniversary, would not be felt as a burden by any one; nor do I believe that it would keep anybody away whose presence would be of any importance. If cases of poverty should occur, our doorkeeper might be empowered to remit the fee at his discretion. The hall will seat 2,100 persons, and if it should, at four sessions, be only half filled, the receipts would just about pay expenses. But, if the Committee will act upon the suggestion I made to Mr. May, and make sure that the major portion of the time is occupied with speaking of the best sort, the hall may be kept filled from first to last; unless the weather should be bad. It is only truth to say, that, after the Anniversary, we have generally suffered our meetings to degenerate in tone and quality, and some-

times things have occurred to pain ourselves
and disgust the public. We have carried
the idea of "free meeting" so far as to seem
to invite to the platform those who cannot
speak to edification; and often, for want
of proper care and arrangement, a whole
day has been spent in profitless discussion
(not to say wrangling) of points that should
be settled in private intercourse or in
meetings of the Executive Committee. It
is in the power of the Executive Commit-
tee, by a little effort beforehand, to change
all this, and make our Anniversary this
year the means of immense good. Our
business affairs will require very little
time, and can easily be attended to at
the opening or the close of a session. For
example, the Society might meet for bu-
siness at 9 o'clock, Wednesday morning, &
spend one hour, or an hour and a half, or
two hours, as might be thought necessary; the
public being notified that the speaking

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will commence at 10 or 11, or some ~~diff~~ definite hour, and the names of the Speakers being announced. If the business cannot be done in this way, let the Society meet privately for that purpose in some less expensive place on Thursday, after the public meetings are over. I am sure there can be no difficulty in procuring speakers to fill out this programme. I would give one forenoon, for example, to Theodore Parker, if he wants so much. Phillips might be the main attraction of another session, Higginson of another, you of another, & so on. If you will only try this plan once and thoroughly I am sure you will not soon have cause to change it.

I have read the above to Susan Anthony, & she unites with me in all that I have said.

Yours, always,

C. J. Milton